

REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2008, received for the above-captioned U.S. patent application. In this response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 17, 18 and 20 to clarify that which Applicants consider to be the presently-claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification, as discussed below.

The objection to the Title has been addressed by amendment contained herein in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The objection to the specification as not providing antecedent basis for the term "computer-readable storage medium" is hereby traversed. Applicants describe the use of a computer memory in connection with a processor executing functions (see, for example, page 9, line 19 - page 10, line 5 and page 23, lines 8-22, among other instances throughout the specification). A computer memory is a known example of a computer-readable storage medium for storing computer software that is executable by a processor, and this would be clearly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the specification to fully support, and provide antecedent basis for, the use of a computer-readable storage medium as recited by Applicants. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 5-6, 17, 21-22, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,104,718 to Pouban et al. (hereinafter "Pouban") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,632 to Brackett et al. (hereinafter "Brackett") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,871 to Atkin et al. (hereinafter "Atkin") is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims contained herein.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites a method of providing multiple jobs for a first communication device that exchanges data with a second communication device. The method is recited as including providing a plurality of device records, where each of the device records corresponds to the first communication device; providing a plurality of job records for at least one of the device records as a corresponding device record, where each of the job records contains at least some information that is also provided in the corresponding device record and where at least one of the job records corresponds to tasks performed in connection with exchanging data between the first communication device and the second communication device. The job records and the corresponding device record are linked so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding device record, where jobs corresponding to the job records associated with the corresponding device record are serviceable by different adapters that access the corresponding device record, and where at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different adapters accessing a particular job record for the at least one of the jobs via accessing the corresponding device record, the different

adapters that access the corresponding device record being linked to the particular job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then the one of the different adapters servicing the at least one of the jobs. Claims 2-6 and 27 depend from Claim 1.

Independent claim 17, as amended herein, recites computer software, stored on a computer-readable medium and executable by at least one processor, that provides multiple jobs for a first communication device that exchanges data with a second communication device. The software includes executable code that provides a plurality of device records, where each of the device records corresponds to the first communication device; executable code that provides a plurality of job records for at least one of the device records as a corresponding device record, where each of the job records contains at least some information that is also provided in the corresponding device record and where at least one of the job records corresponds to tasks performed in connection with exchanging data between the first communication device and the second communication device. Executable code links the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding device record, where jobs corresponding to the job records associated with the corresponding device record are serviceable by different adapters that access the corresponding device record, and wherein at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different adapters accessing a particular job record for the at least one of the jobs via accessing the corresponding device record, the different adapters being linked to the job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then the one of the different adapters servicing the at least one of the jobs. Claims 18-22 depend from Claim 17.

The Poublan reference discloses providing multiple jobs for a device associated with a communication device. As indicated at item 3 of the Office Action, Poublan does not teach that the job records contain information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records and exchanging data between the two communication devices.

The Bracket reference discloses a method and apparatus for configuring an image system to communicate with multiple remote devices. The Office Action indicates at item 3 that Brackett teaches having job records containing information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records for a system that communicates with multiple remotely located storage or printing devices as set forth at column 5, lines 30-33, column 8, lines 5-16, Fig. 2, Fig. 6 and 8 of Brackett.

The Atkin reference discloses a system and method for managing multiple cultural profiles in an information handling system. The Office Action indicates that Atkin discloses an input/output adaptor for connection disk units, for example, and that Atkin also discloses another entity such as a communication adaptor, wherein it transfers data and links the device with hundreds or even thousands of similar devices such as remote printers, remote services, or remote storage units.

Applicants first address the comments in the Office Action on page 8 concerning "multiple entities." The Office Action states that "Applicant gives an example of

multiple entities used in a background copy operation, wherein the jobs may be handled by multiple entities (Applicant implies at the same time) to allow sooner completion." The Office Action then concludes that "multiple entities" are not recited by Applicants. To the extent this comment is understood, Applicants dispute these conclusions. Applicants note that the term entities has been replaced with adapters and that different adapters are recited by Applicants. Applicants submit that above-noted portion of Applicants' arguments do necessarily imply that jobs are being handled "at the same time." Rather, Applicants note that jobs may be serviceable by the different adapters (as amended herein, meaning more than one or multiple adapters) and that one of those different adapters services a job corresponding to a particular job record. As further discussed below, Applicants have clarified use of different adapters, as recited herein, to recite that the different adapters access the corresponding device record which is linked to a plurality of job records, one of which is a particular job record for a corresponding job that is serviced by one of the different adapters.

Applicants also note that the Office Action, in discussing Applicants' claim 1, the Office Action (page 3-4) does not specifically address Applicants' prior amendment of "wherein at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different entities accessing the particular device record, the different entities being linked to the job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then servicing the at least one of the jobs." The Office Action appears to refer only to previously-stated arguments without specifically addressing all of the prior amended features. Further, on page 10, the Office Action copies the text of Applicants' prior amendment, but then cites only to the BPAI

decision. Applicants note that the recent amendment was added subsequent to the BPAI decision. Accordingly, Applicants submits that it is not clear in the Office Action if Applicants' last amendment has been fully considered. Applicants have proposed further amendments herein and address all of the claim amendments below since the BPAI decision in connection with the cited references.

Applicants' independent claims, as amended herein, recite at least the features of linking the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, wherein jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities, linking the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, wherein jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities, and wherein at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different entities accessing the particular device record, the different entities being linked to the job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then servicing the at least one of the jobs. The features of the present claims allow operations for a device to be handled more quickly and efficiently by allowing different adapters (including, for example, adapters that are relatively idle) to assist in job servicing via the accessing of a device record that links a plurality of job records. Different adapters access the device record, and one of the different adapters services an active job corresponding to a particular job record linked to

the device record. Applicants refer, for example, to page 16, lines 1-18 and page 25, line 5 to page 27, line 9 and Figures 11 and 12 of the originally-filed specification.

As set forth in detail below, Applicants submit that the cited references of Poublan, Brackett and Atkin, taken or in any combination, do not teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features.

Poublan does not teach that the job records contain information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records, and thus there does not appear to be any mechanism in Poublan for having an entity other than the device itself service job records for the device. As noted above, the Office Action cites to Brackett in connection with this features; however, even if Brackett teaches having job records containing information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records for a system that communicates with multiple remotely located storage or printing devices, there still is no teaching in Brackett of having the job records of a particular device being able to be serviceable by different adapters that access the device record, are linked to the job records corresponding to the device record, and then one of the different adapters servicing a job corresponding to a particular job record. No operation or data structure involving a device record linked to job records like that recited by Applicants (or anything that could perform the same or similar function) is described in Brackett or Poublan (or, as discussed below, in Atkin).

The Office Action (page 4) indicates that "Poublan and Brackett are silent wherein jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviced by different entities." The Office Action cites to Atkin as fulfilling this feature, specifically citing to Atkin as disclosing an input/output adaptor for connection disk units, for example, and another adapter such as a communication adaptor (34), wherein it transfers data and links the device with hundreds or even thousands of similar devices such as remote printers, remote services, or remote storage units. Applicants respectfully submit that Atkin does not overcome the deficiencies of Poublan and Brackett with respect to the presently-claimed invention. Even though Atkin teaches use of a communication adaptor (34), Atkin does not appear to teach job records for servicing the adaptor. Atkin is silent regarding detailed operation of the communication adaptor (34) and it is not clear whether any sort of job record (or equivalent) is used at all in Atkin. Thus, Atkin does not disclose at least the feature of "wherein jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviced by different entities." Applicants further note the amendments to the claims contained herein concerning the structure and use of the device record in connection with the different adapters that Applicants also submit are not disclosed by Atkin, Poublan or Brackett.

The Office Action (page 9, bottom) suggests that Applicants have attacked Atkin individually, but this not so. Rather, it is the Office Action that is citing Atkin for the missing feature of Poublan and Brackett of "wherein jobs corresponding to job records associated with a particular device record are serviced by different entities." But, since Atkin does not disclose job records, does not disclose any linking relationship between a

job record and a device record, and does not disclose any access of different adapters to a job record via a device record, Atkin does not and cannot disclose the above-noted feature and does not overcome the deficiencies of Pouban and Brackett with respect to Applicant's presently-claimed invention. The Office Action's citation to Atkin as disclosing "a plurality of devices" is wholly silent on any feature having to do with those plurality of devices accessing a job record linked by a device record like that recited by Applicants. Rather than Applicants attacking Atkin "individually" as suggested in the Office Action, Applicants have pointed out that the Office Action is citing Atkin for a feature that it does not fulfill. Applicants have further clarified the differences of the presently-claimed invention from Atkin, Pouban and Brackett by further amendments to the claims, as discussed herein.

The Office Action (page 8) specifically cites to four adapters disclosed by Atkins: an I/O adapter 18, user interface adapter 22, communication adapter 34 and display adapter 36 as entities that are capable of servicing print jobs, communication jobs etc. The Office Action then refers to the Decision of the BPAI as indicating that one of the "hundreds or thousands of the remote printers, servers or storage units" of Atkin's device could have serviced the job via Atkin's adapters. However, nothing about Atkin's disclosure suggests that the adapters that are cited above access a device record, are linked to job records corresponding to the device record, and are different adapters that are capable of servicing a job, wherein one of the adapters services the job. Instead, Atkin discloses that the above-noted adapters are for connecting peripheral units to a computer system. The adapters disclosed by Atkins are not structurally, or functionally,

like the different adapters recited by Applicants for servicing jobs, or being serviceable of jobs, through access of the different adapters to a the device record linked to a particular job record, and one of the different adapters servicing the job in the manner as recited by Applicants.

The Office Action refers to the description in Atkin of remote printers and servers that "could have serviced the job." The "hundreds or thousands" of peripheral devices indicated by Atkins are described as devices that are, for example, all coupled via a data access network. However, all of these "hundreds or thousands" of devices do not access a device record and are not accordingly linked to a job record in the manner like that recited by Applicants. Instead, they are peripheral units that coupled over a network to Atkin's computer system via Atkin's described communication adapter. The description of Atkin's system is that such that a computer system could, for example, send a print job to a remote printer via the communication adapter that connects the computer system to a data processing network that is in turn connected to the remote printer. The remote printer receives the print job and prints the job. Such operation is simply not even close to what is being recited by Applicants.

The argument, being used to reject Applicants' present claims, that any device that is coupled to a network is capable of servicing any other device coupled to that network is not an accurate characterization of the features of Applicant's presently-recited claims. Applicants have further clarified the claims with amendments herein, and address the above-noted characterization. Applicants' present claims make clear that a plurality of

job records are linked together via a device record. Different adapters access the device record and are accordingly linked to the plurality of job records, wherein one of the different entities then services a particular job corresponding to a particular job record, the job records and the corresponding device record being linked so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding device record. That is, it should be noted that the mere "capability" of servicing via the receiving of a job over connection to a network that is referred to by the Office Action with respect to Atkin does not disclose the features of serviceability and servicing by different adapters using a device record which links to a plurality of job records, and one of the different adapters servicing a particular job, as is recited by Applicants.

The BPAI decision that is cited in the Office Action indicated that Applicants had not recited features concerning the servicing of jobs by different entities, and indicated that the peripherals disclosed by Atkins were, as a result, "serviceable" of jobs in the manner like that recited by Applicants' prior claims. Subsequent to that decision, Applicants clarified with amendments, and have now herein even further clarified, the features involving different adapters accessing a device record, being linked to job records corresponding to the device record, and one of the different adapters then servicing the particular job in the manner as recited by Applicants. Accordingly, the Office Action's citation to the conclusions of the BPAI are not sufficient to address Applicants' amendments that have been made after the BPAI decision. This is particularly evident from the conclusion on page 9 of the Office Action that states: "Therefore, the mere fact that there are a plurality of devices that have the capability of

performing a job/task, shows that there is a teaching of being serviceable by more than one entity." Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims involving the structure and functionalities of different adapters accessing a device record, being linked to job records, and one of the different adapters accordingly servicing a particular job like that recited by Applicants, require an analysis and examination that goes beyond the "serviceability" issue raised by the BPAI.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Poublan, Brackett nor Atkin, taken alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest a method of (or computer software stored on a computer readable storage medium with features for) providing multiple jobs for communication devices that includes at least the features of linking the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding device record, wherein jobs corresponding to the job records associated with the corresponding device record are serviceable by different adapters that access the corresponding device record, and wherein at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different adapters accessing a particular job record for the at least one of the jobs via accessing the corresponding device record, the different adapters that access the corresponding device record being linked to the particular job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then the one of the different adapters servicing the at least one of the jobs, as claimed by Applicants. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 2-4 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pouban in view of Brackett and Atkin and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,376 to James (hereinafter "James"), is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims contained herein.

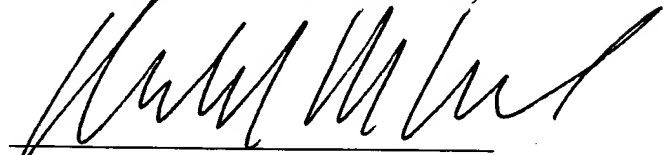
The features of independent claims 1 and 17 are discussed above with respect to Pouban, Brackett and Atkin. Claims 2-4 and 18-20 depend therefrom.

James discloses a system for converting between the states of fresh and owned in a multiprocessor computer system comprising a memory line with a structure including a first field for storing a memory state, a second field for storing an address and a third field for storing data. (See Abstract of James). The Office Action cited to James as disclosing the use of shared pointers and forward and backward pointers.

Applicants respectfully submit that the deficiencies of Pouban, Brackett, and Atkin with respect to the independent claims 1 and 17, discussed above, are not overcome by the addition of James. James does not disclose, nor is James cited by the Office Action in connection with, Applicants' recited features that are discussed above in connection with Pouban, Brackett and Atkin. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 29, 2009

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